

Minutes from a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life Held on Friday, 19 November 1993 at 12 noon in the Hall Building, Room 771.

Present: Dr. D.L. Boisvert, Chair; Mr. A. Switzer; Mr. K. Lowther; Dr. S.M. Graub; Ms. N. Torbit; Mr. A. Ghaemi; Ms. J. Davies; Ms. L. Grimes; Mr. D. Leib; Mr. P. Dalton; Ms. C. Fortier; Mr. B. Counihan; Ms. J. Brown; Dr. B. Litner; Mr. R. Côté; Mr. V. Pavlicik; Ms. J. Chegrinec, (secretary).

Absent with regrets: Ms. A. Kerby; Mr. H. Zarins; Ms. L. Nicholson.

1. Approval of Agenda: On a motion by Mr. Lowther, seconded by Ms. Grimes, the agenda was approved.
2. Chair's Remarks: Dr. Boisvert announced that the two-year report, prepared by Mr. Lowther, had appeared in the CTR. Thanks and appreciation were expressed to Mr. Lowther. It was also announced that the Student Services brochure was available and was being distributed by the areas.
3. Approval of Minutes from the Meeting of 15 October 1993: It was agreed that Mr. Bonin, Director of Libraries, would be invited to attend the 17 December meeting of Council. Ms. Davies, Ms. Brown, Mr. Leib and Mr. Counihan requested that more detailed minutes be provided, as well as indicating the names of the individuals who spoke to the issue. Add to the minutes that the issue of bike racks was raised with Ms. Maynes, and the request for an increase in the quantity of racks as well as providing racks throughout the winter, possibly in the parking garage. On a motion by Ms. Fortier, seconded by Ms. Grimes, the minutes, as amended, were approved.
4. Business Arising from the Minutes: Mr. Ghaemi will provide Ms. Chegrinec with a full slate of undergraduate appointments to committees. Dr. Boisvert distributed a written response from Ms. Maynes to Council on the issues connected with the Bookstore and the Cafeteria. The Chair will be writing to the Deans expressing Council's concern over some issues dealing with the Bookstore, requesting "that Faculty members be sensitized to the financial constraints of students when they are setting their booklists...".
5. Report from the Planning and Resources Committee: Ms. Torbit, Co-chair, informed Council that members have met once and as yet there has emerged no specific motions to be tabled at Council. They are planning to review the research document prepared by Dr. Graub and Mr. Côté, as well as address the following issues: internal communication; how information is relayed to students; funding sources; criteria for funding; accessibility of senior administration; teacher evaluations; student representation - both in Associations and in departments; orientation. Mr. Lowther requested a written report on planned activities. Ms. Torbit agreed to distribute the

minutes of the Committee meetings, along with the CCSL minutes.

6. Student Life Issues: Ms. Grimes, Dr. Boisvert, Mr. Ghaemi, Dr. Litner, Ms. Torbit, Mr. Lowther, Mr. Pavlicik, Mr. Dalton, Dr. Graub, and Mr. Counihan addressed the issue of certain University offices not placing ads equally in the two student newspaper. The following proposed motion, which was moved by Mr. Ghaemi and seconded by Ms. Grimes, was tabled:

Preamble to the motion:

In reviewing the announcements regarding academic issues, ie. deadlines, programs regulations etc., we have found that this information is regularly available in only one student newspaper on campus. It should not be assumed that students read only one of the campus newspapers or in fact that students read both regularly, nor should it be assumed which newspaper is more widely read. As these announcements are of great importance to students we feel they would be best served if the information was available in both student newspapers.

Be It Resolved That the Concordia Council on Student Life issue a statement to the academic sector of the University requesting that all academic announcements normally issued to the campus media for publication, be issued to both student newspapers on an equal basis.

Dr. Boisvert provided the information that the Faculty of Arts & Science was restricted by costs. The CTR gave them one free ad, and the Link gave them, in their opinion, the best value for limited funds. Public Relations does not place ads in either The Concordian or The Link. Some suggestions raised included:

- reducing ad size - place two for the cost of one;
- have the papers re-examine ad rates - the papers could consider lowering the cost of student information ads - or providing free space for announcements which have an important impact on students;
- alternate the placement of ads from one paper to another.

In the discussion that ensued around the proposed motion, Dr. Graub suggested that the idea of shared information be presented to the Faculties, especially in regard to advising students of important academic deadlines. Ms. Grimes insisted that this type of information has to be equally divided between the papers so that the information is dispersed to the most people in the most effective manner. Mr. Lowther pointed out that, although he agrees with the proposal, it must be recognized that the papers serve only as a reminder of important academic deadlines; the information is available in numerous other forms.

A vote on the proposed motion was taken, 11 in favour, 0 opposed and 3 abstentions - the motion was carried.

Dr. Boisvert will carry the motion forward to the Deans and the Registrar.

Mr. Dalton raised the issue of the locked women's bathroom in the Sociology Department, 6th floor of the McConnell Building. Students are complaining about the lack of access to this facility. The unlocked bathroom is located in an isolated location.

Ms. Grimes commented that all the clocks in the Hall Building are set for different times.

Mr. Lowther inquired about the necessity of "carding" of men in the vicinity of the bathroom on the 3rd floor of the Webster Library by Security.

Mr. Pavlicik mentioned the deplorable state of the Victoria Gym and requested that better cleaning be done.

Mr. Ghaemi questioned why the ventilation in the Hall Building is shut down at 6:00 p.m. on a daily basis?

Dr. Boisvert will raise all of the above issues with Dr. I.M. Barlow, Associate Vice-Rector, Services (Physical Environment), whose responsibilities include security and maintenance issues.

Ms. Brown questioned the lack of certain services offered in the computer labs on the 9th floor of the Hall Building. She mentioned the complete lack of basic programmes (i.e., wordprocessing) that were available, and the inconvenience of having to purchase programmes on the 4th floor of the McConnell Building for the computers on the 9th floor of the Hall Building. Mr. Lowther stated that it appeared there was no commitment by Computing Services to the labs, funds were not available for upgrading, most of the computers were booked by Computer Science, and it didn't seem as if any steps were being taken to improve the situation. Mr. Leiby summarized that the problem was with the basic setup and the lack of printing capabilities. Mr. Counihan informed Council that until recently graduate students' access to computer facilities was virtually non-existent but within the past year considerable access had been established, especially at Loyola; also a laser printer will be available at the Dean of Students Office on the Loyola Campus beginning in the 2nd term. Dr. Boisvert informed Council that CASA had established a computer lab for Commerce & Administration students, paid for out of CASA funds, in the GM building.

Dr. Boisvert will discuss these concerns with Mr. J. Fearnley, Director, Computing Services and report back to Council.

Mr. Counihan raised the issue of The Link article dealing with the problem the students had with the Red Cross Blood Drive. Mr. Dalton responded stating that the issue was in two parts - the first one being a motion which was passed unanimously by the CUSA Board of Directors to petition the Red Cross to change the parts of its questionnaire which ask specific questions regarding sexual orientation and race. The second part of the issue is that unless there is a change in the questionnaire, CUSA will stop sponsoring the Red Cross blood drives. It was agreed that this second part, if necessary, will go to a student referendum which will be held at the next general election.

7. New Business

Report of the Task Force on Senate Reform: Mr. Dalton, Dr. Boisvert, Mr. Ghaemi, Mr. Lowther, Ms. Grimes, Mr. Leib, Ms. Fortier, Dr. Litner, and Mr. Counihan addressed this issue. Dr. Boisvert told Council that he had tabled this document because he felt it was important that Council comment on sections of the Reform document which deal with student representation on Senate and Senate sub-committees. As well, Council may wish to make general comments on the document overall. The ensuing discussion raised the following issues that Council would like Senate to consider:

- CCSL should become part of the normal consultative process of Senate. As Mr. Leib pointed out, it was only the actions of the Chair of Council which resulted in the document even being tabled at Council.
- Mechanisms should be established to evaluate the performance of all representatives, not only students.
- Guidelines for eligibility should be reviewed - student organizations should be able to elect their own representatives without any constraints regarding academic standings or GPAs.
- Recommendation 4.10 pg. 18 should be eliminated - students do not need faculty and/or administration's input in electing their representatives to Senate and Senate sub-committees.
- Disappointment was expressed that the Senate Reform Document Task Force did not approach CCSL to have the student member replaced when the appointed individual was not able to continue.
- Council acknowledges that student representation is a problem, but it has to remain the responsibility of student organizations to elect representatives.

- It was felt that the physical structure of the Senate Chamber was irrelevant to the report.
- It was felt that recommendation 4.10 was unacceptable; it was far too vague and didn't establish any size or parameters.
- Responsibilities of all senators, not just student representatives, should be reviewed and revised.
- Pg. 17 - recommendation #6 - the question was asked, why it would take three years to develop a plan of action?
- In regards to the above recommendation #6 - if students are included, they are also under-represented, along with minorities.
- If the number of Faculty members increase, then the student membership should increase accordingly.
- Council wishes to see the same wording as for Faculty - four seats - 3 full-time seats and 1 part-time seat.
- That the report tabled to Senate by CCSL also include remarks from non-student members of Council.

It was agreed that a sub-committee consisting of Mr. Leib, Mr. Lowther, Ms. Grimes and Mr. Dalton would prepare a reasoned response to the report to be considered by Council at the 17 December meeting. To facilitate this working group, Ms. Chegrinec will provide an excerpt of the minutes as soon as possible. Mr. Dalton will advise Steering Committee of Senate that CCSL will be preparing a response for tabling at Senate after approval by Council.

8. Directors Reports: Dr. Boisvert advised Council of the absence of Mr. Zarins, and that Ms. Kerby had supplied a written report.

Dean of Students: Mr. Counihan announced that the University debating society would be involved in an international tournament during the upcoming weekend. This event is in preparation for the world tournament, and involves 50 to 60 teams.

An update was given on the student projects fund with an approximate total of \$8500 being given out so far. Mr. Counihan agreed with Mr. Lowther's request to table a list of projects with the amount of monies given in January instead of the usual time of April. Ms. Grimes and Mr. Counihan outlined the guidelines necessary to qualify for project dollars: the group defends the project, the committee judges if they feel the project will be completed and if

so, how realistic is the claim that they can tap into other resources. It was acknowledged that a certification of additional funding has never been requested. Dr. Boisvert pointed out that since the monies for the projects comes from CCSL, Council would be within its rights to implement parameters.

Health Services: Ms. Torbit reported on the renovations undertaken in the waiting area on the SGW Campus, to increase the space. A review was being undertaken of scheduling, to meet the needs of students and decrease waiting time. The issue of an Insurance Plan for students has been pursued, and it is felt that it is a worthwhile issue to raise again at this time. The peer helper group was proving to be a useful addition to the sector.

Counselling & Development: Dr. Graub reported on the steady increase of workload. There are more problems with students in academic jeopardy and a session will be presented, 7 December 1:00 - 2:30 p.m., H-440, to which Council members are invited. Sessions were also being offered in vocational counselling, with a video on good and bad interviews.

The Learning & Writing Centre has 15 peer assistants, and librarians are giving bibliographic instructions and sessions on preparing resumes.

CAPS - between October 4 - 22, on-campus recruiters interviewed 100 accounting students and 57 were contacted for a second interview. 342 Commerce, Engineering and Arts & Science students will be interviewed during the coming week. The department has started to document usage of its services. Mr. Lowther advised that the APC is setting up an advisory group to examine the University Writing Test; he recommends that the Head of the Learning and Writing Centre be included in the group, as well as a CUSA representative. In response to Mr. Dalton's question on the difference between therapy offered at C&D and that offered by Health Services, Dr. Boisvert informed him that this issue is currently being discussed with the Directors of Health Services and Counselling and Development and he will report back to Council on the matter.

Financial Aid & Awards: Mr. Côté advised Council that FA&A was examining the methods used to disburse aid during peak periods. Meetings have been held to identify issues and provide solutions. A report will be presented to Council in December.

The chart Required Reading Book Cost for Single Random Full Load Course Profile By Degree Pursued 1993-94 was distributed with the caution that it should not be viewed as an exhaustive study. It was suggested that these figures could be used to sensitize faculty to financial hardships faced by students, but once again Mr. Côté urged that the figures be used only for

illustration. A discussion on the merit of undertaking an in-depth survey was discussed with input from Mr. Pavlicik, Ms. Grimes, Mr. Switzer, Mr. Lowther, Mr. Leibur and Mr. Ghaemi. It was suggested that the chart provided by Mr. Côté be used in the short-term and a survey be conducted for later use; it could be tied into the research document being prepared by Mr. Côté and Dr. Graub.

Mr. Côté, responding to Mr. Ghaemi's question on the accuracy of the MacLean's survey report, confirmed that Concordia is at the bottom with reference to student aid. Dr. Kenniff established an undergraduate endowment of \$20m last year which they expect the Capital Campaign to achieve, but Mr. Côté acknowledged that the University is still far behind the rest of Québec and Ontario in both undergraduate and graduate awards.

As Dr. Boisvert explained, this situation is partly historical. Being a young University, Concordia doesn't benefit from the endowments of older institutions, such as McGill. Also Concordia's student population is drawn from a different socio-economic milieu than McGill's, and the University doesn't have professional schools, which tend to receive the larger capital gifts. It is expected though that the \$20m will generate interest in the amount of \$1.6 - 2m per year to be used for awards; this is three times greater than what is now available.

Announcements: Mr. Lowther expressed his thanks to Ms. Fortier and Ms. Kerby for organizing the workshop on Racism and the Law.

Dr. Boisvert invited all CCSL members to participate in the Professional Development Session to be held to discuss the Human Development Model on 16 December.

8. Next Meeting: The next meeting of CCSL will be held Friday, 17 December, 1993, 12:00 noon, AD-131.
9. Termination of Meeting: On a motion by Mr. Ghaemi, seconded by Mr. Côté, the meeting was terminated.